

**HEARING AIDS**



signia  
Authorised  
Hearing  
Care Centre

**JHA JAGADISH HEARING AIDS**

No.3, Kutchery Road, Mylapore, Chennai-4  
24640968 / 9444851663

1561, 15th Main Road, Bharathi Colony, J Block, Anna Nagar West, Ch-40  
9445115548

# MYLAPORE TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

Vol. 28, No. 38

Dec 9 - 15, 2023

4 pages Free Circulation

Right From Your Grandmother's Kitchen

**SURIYA SWEETS & GREENS**

- Ghee & Honey Sweets
- Milk & Bengali Sweets
- Cashew & Almond Sweets
- Traditional Kara's, Snacks
- Fresh Vegetables & Fruits
- Cut Vegetables & Fruits

R.A.PURAM : 2434 8837 | MYLAPORE : 2495 2999  
TNAGAR : 2834 2837 / 95000 75315 / 95000 75303

OFFICE : 2498 2244, 4766 2029

WEBSITE : [www.mylaporetimes.com](http://www.mylaporetimes.com)

EMAIL : [mylaporetimes@gmail.com](mailto:mylaporetimes@gmail.com)



Plastic and other waste float in the flood water in the Buckingham Canal, slowing down the flow of water. Seen near Kutchery Road



Stagnating water that sank the P S Sivaswami Salai zone, Mylapore was pumped into the drain off R. H. Road to be led into the Canal. Stop-gap solution for the worst-hit area of Mylapore executed three days after the havoc.

## MONSOON 2023: LESSONS WE MAY WANT TO LEARN

The cyclone-induced record rainfall this past week continues to affect hundreds of people of Mylapore days after the rains took a break. Polluted streets and roads, still-full drains, dirty pavements, fallen trees and interrupted power supply. Lots of houses and apartment blocks are still trying to put life on track now.

Are there some lessons Mylapore can learn from the recent events?

We list a few observations here -

### 1. The Drains:

Constructing drains is welcome but how smartly have they been set up? Did the drains built in P S Sivaswami Salai zone this year really help drain water? Are the drains on the west side of Royapettah High Road linked well enough with drains on the east side of this road, where the drains can push the water into the Buckingham Canal?

### 2. Desilting Drains:

Workers were asked to clean drains of silt weeks before the monsoon season. They did so in many neighbourhoods. But there was hardly any supervision. Were the drains desilted well? If not, they served no great purpose. GCC's top officers and ministers seemed more keen on carrying out spot-checks on the work on new drains, since the chief minister was keen that this happened on time.

### 3. Community-driven Preparations:

Because local communities and councillors do not take much interest in keeping an eye on civic issues, actions like desilting of drains remains an eye-wash in many places.

One R. A. Puram community said it is because their members supervised the drains cleaning job, bringing in the local area GCC

engineer and the area councillor into the picture, that the work was done right and so, this street was not inundated this past week. Other streets were flooded.

### 4. Relook at Power Distribution:

How robust is the power supply network? The general opinion is that it is just average. For example, Jeth Nagar community has been asking for new transformers for two years but have not been installed. TANGEDCO bandages the local network when it fails; and it fails often.

People ask - why must one street's community suffer because a tree that has fallen and affected the lines three streets away, leading to suspension in power supply that affects a larger area around?

### 5. Organise Local Disaster Management Operation Room:

Lots of helpline numbers of state agencies were shared and publicised on social media. War Rooms were set up by GCC and others. But why do we not set up zone-wise war rooms? Localise the call-help and provide-action network. Why did we need fisher boats to be rushed by road from afar to evacuate residents of P S Sivaswami Salai when we are clearly aware of the 2/3 Mylapore areas which get flooded badly every monsoon season and hence, need teams set up locally to attend to SOS calls?

### 6. Community Helplines:

Many people, stuck in high-rises and in houses, cried for milk, bread, foodstuff, water, medicines and the essentials. Since the phone lines were down in many cases, help could not reach them. Some depended on good Samaritans of the area.



Congested areas like Kailasapuram ( located behind Citi Centre mall) saw water drain quickly; home to poor and middle class people, the small lanes and streets did not witness excess flooding



Avenue trees that collapsed were chopped and left by the roadside by civic workers. Traffic movement was not affected. Scene on Luz Church Road.

Can a network of social workers and community activists be formed in each area of Mylapore - of doctors, nurses, aid workers, social workers, community leaders? Can this network provide local helplines ( personal) and come to the aid of people down the street in SOS situations like the monsoon?

Can one person who owns gardening tools share it with a group which must chop down a danger-posing tree? Can one pharmacy supply medicines round the clock, when needed and so volunteer to be part of this network?

**WATCH VIDEOS** on this subject  
[www.youtube.com/mylaporetv](http://www.youtube.com/mylaporetv)



This is the Adyar river, seen on the day the city received a record amount of rainfall. This photo was shot from the terrace of one of the high-rise residential blocks in MRC Nagar. You can see the Chettinad palace located in the spread of trees, the two islands in the river and the Thiru Vi Ka bridge that links Mylapore zone and Adyar.

## Two councillors seen working in flooded areas



At least two area councillors hit the streets and reached out to the needy from the hour the cyclone-induced rain caused lots of problems for people in their wards.

Councillor Amirda Varshini ( Congress) joined civic workers who were on the job even in the rain in areas like Mandavelipakkam and Pattinapakkam, ensuring the SOS calls were attended to. She also arranged food for families who were in dire straits.

## PEOPLE PROTEST

Hundreds of men, women and children walked down to Luz Circle in groups last Wednesday night and staged a protest. They demanded restoration of power supply in many colonies around Luz. They sat on the roads and formed a human chain and stopped traffic on all sides.

Police rushed to the Circle and engaged



with the protestors. These residents were from areas like Apparswamy Koil Street, V P Koil Street, Kalvivaru Street and around. These areas were water logged and state agencies chose not to restore power, fearing accidents / deaths caused by live or damaged cables of TANGEDCO.

Power was restored in many areas of Mylapore zone; residents said power blipped once or twice later but was okay into the night. It was also restored in areas which were highlighted in the protest. Protests were also held by people residing on and around P. S. Sivaswami Salai zone when they were driven to the edge three days after the record rain - severe flooding, no power, no state help.



Similarly, CPI-M party councillor Saraswathy ( Ward 123) was seen wading through flood water in her backyard, taking a look at the damage and goading civic workers. Some streets of congested colonies needed urgent attention - diverting the floodwater and clearing the muck.

Ravi Nandyala from Jeth Nagar says ECO-Kitchen, an NGO partnered with councillor Amirda Varshini's team and supplied 2500 packets of food to the flood-hit people around Foreshore Estate and Srinivasapuram, which lie off the Marina shore.



## CANAL OVERFLOWS

When you reside on the banks of Buckingham Canal, you have to resign yourself to the stink of its waters and to the garbage that people dump into it all year round.

But when the rain is heavy, when the city experiences a record amount of rainfall, as it did top of this week, the residents of an area like Pattu Nool Karan Thottam ( or PNK Thottam) experience the worst.

This area lies just off the bridge across the Canal on Kutchery Road, opposite the office of Dinakaran newspaper.

A few hundred tenements and huts share space here. On Monday, water began to flow out of the Canal and overflowed into PNK Thottam. Vessels and daily utility items were seen floating in the muddied waters that entered almost all houses here.

Though many colonies which live on the banks of the city's waterways have been cleared and families have been resettled in sprawling tenement blocks in areas like Perumbakkam, PNK Thottam has survived.



**DEMAND FOR MILK**

Many families ran out of water, food and milk for they may not have stocked up for the bad weather days. Many online posts sought milk. Private and Aavin supplies were out of operation on the day the cyclone passed by. And when the first lorry-load of Aavin milk got supplied at a vending booth off Luz Avenue, there were over one hundred people in the queue.

**OBIT FOR TREES**

Many avenue trees lost out to the cyclonic weather. Civic workers responded to SOS calls, in cases where fallen trees blocked access to the colony - one such case was in Abiramapuram.

Many trees inside campuses also tilted.

In one such case, off Warren Road, a mango tree fell to one side and there were cries to get it chopped down by civic workers.

Some residents who saw value in this old tree ("It had given us hundreds of fruit year after year", said one resident) called up contacts to see if the tree could be saved.

Getting professional advice on these issues is not easy - perhaps one has to turn to the men/women who run well-known plant nurseries.

They got across to Shobha Menon of the NGO called Nizhal, which is the premier agency that has promoted planting local species in public spaces and increased tree cover.

They got across to a nursery based on the ECR.

Its owner looked at the photo shared and suggested that the tree



be trimmed to make it light and then attend to it on the weekend.

Meanwhile, another expert landed at this campus and discussions got going.

There seemed to be a chance for this mango tree to be saved.



**COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

When the power went off for long hours in the Kallukkaran Street zone which was not flooded, the seniors here like the Jambunathans pulled out their pallankuzhi sets and got the traditional games going. Children of the area took turns to 'time pass'.

One evening, even as the power was being restored, people decided to cook for a community dinner - some rolled the dough, some made chappatis, some cooked a curry. Dinner was shared with families on this street. The sudden black out did not dampen the community spirit here.

**TWO FACES OF KUTCHERY ROAD**

These are the two faces of Kutchery Road on two different days.

The flooded road - as it was on Monday last.

The dry road - as it was on Tuesday last.

In many areas, civic workers responded to issues that needed immediate attention and helped to clear flood water, shove fallen trees to one side and find ways to let the floodwater flow out into drains.



2024

BE A  
**VOLUNTEER**

The Festival is completely managed by volunteers. 18 year olds. 25 year olds. 65 year olds.

If you can spare 2/3 hours, post 6pm, on any 2 days (the Fest is Jan. 4 - 7), more importantly on the weekend, we would love to have you in our team. Keen?

**Call Shanthi at 2498 2244 / 4766 2029**



## Bhavan's fest is on now

Four artistes were honoured at the launch of the annual music and dance festival for the December Season of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore on November 24.

Tamil Nadu governor, R. N. Ravi, who was the chief guest did the honours – to Seshampatti Sivalingam, R. K. Shriram Kumar (in absentia), Rajhesh Vaidhya and U Rajesh.

These awards were the Bhavan's S.V.N. Centenary Memorial Awards instituted by S. N. Srikanth. Rajhesh Vaidhya and U Rajesh performed a concert before the inauguration. Artiste Ajay Sopori from Kashmir presented a santoor concert after the formal launch.

The festival runs for eight weeks and is supported by South Zone Cultural Centre. Concerts have resumed after the cyclonic weather affected the fest.

■ REFER MYLAPORE CONCERTS SCHEDULES OF DECEMBER SEASON here – [www.mylaporetimes.com](http://www.mylaporetimes.com)



## Kartik Fine Arts' fest launched: concerts are on now

The 49th year Art Festival 2023 of Kartik Fine Arts sabha for the December Season was inaugurated on December 1 evening at the Narada Gana Sabha auditorium, Alwarpet.

Even as the cyclonic weather began to swirl around the city, this event was seen through, though there were hardly any rasikas in the auditorium.

The chief guest was mridangam vidwan Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman.

Vocalists Vignesh Ishwar and Sriranjani Santhanagan and dancer Kanaka Krishna Prasanth were presented with the sabha's key awards that evening. A few other awards for artistes were presented that evening.

Only daily tickets for the concerts are sold; there are no season tickets. The concerts from December 1 to 13 are at Narada Gana Sabha (NGS) hall. From Dec.14 to January 3, 2024, concerts are at the main and mini halls at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Though the city, and Mylapore is slowly recovering from the cyclonic weather and record rainfall, with many areas still under water, the festival concerts continue, with the popular artistes lined up to perform at the NGS auditorium.

**MYLAPORE  
TIMES**

**PHONE NUMBERS  
2498 2244 / 4766 2029  
Call: 10.30 am to 5 p.m.**

## Mylapore MLA in fire-fighting mode. People want serious solutions to recurring monsoon problems



For Mylapore MLA Dha Velu, it was all about fire fighting in the face of the monsoon this past week.

The DMK member was all over the place – Marina, Luz, Mylapore and Mandaveli – and he and his team was overseeing issues that have recurred time and again.

The MLA has witnessed the mess rains create in P S Sivaswami Salai zone in the past. But he has not been able to get the GCC or the state to seriously address this serious issue that is bound to recur in this area year after year.

This past week, residents of this area were very disappointed when the MLA responded late; more so after people had staged a protest on R. H. Road. Velu being aware of this serious issue was expected to do more, said residents.

He finally got help from the disaster mission team which brought boats, powered motors and lorries and set in motion the water draining job.

Mylaporeans say that a local help network set up by the MLA weeks before the monsoon season would have been very useful – getting across to MLA was a challenge as lines were busy or dead as power was cut.



**MYLAPORE  
TIMES**

**Crib  
CONTEST**

The contest is open to residents of Mylapore, San Thome, R. A. Puram, Abiramapuram and Alwarpet.

It invites families who set up beautiful Cribbs for Christmas at their homes.

The judge will look at the creativity and award extra points to cribbs that have recycled materials in them!

To enter this contest, shoot a

one-minute video - slow, close and sharp - of the Crib alone and WhatsApp it to 9841049155. Mention your full name, address and phone number.

Entries can be sent between Dec.24 and 28, 2023.

The judge may visit houses of short-listed entries to see the crib in person.

Ten Best Cribbs get prizes and certificates.

